

REMARKS

Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 10-20 and 22 are currently pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-22 stand rejection under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of USP 6,620,015. Even though Applicant does not agree with this rejection, in the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

Hackell

Claims 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 3,952,447 to Hackell ("Hackell"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 recites a bubble producing device that has a plurality of loops, and a connector attached to the cylindrical wall of each loop. In contrast, Applicant simply does not see where or how Hackell discloses a connector that connects a plurality of loops. Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10, and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons.

Independent claim 13 recites a loop having a cylindrical wall having a first bubble forming edge and an opposite second edge, and a flared edge extending at an angle with respect to the cylindrical wall from a portion of the second edge. See FIGS. 1-3 of the specification. In contrast, Hackell does not disclose a flared edge extending from a portion of an edge that is opposite to the bubble forming edge. For example, assuming that the flared edge in Hackell is element 19, this flared edge is also the bubble forming edge, and therefore cannot be opposite the bubble forming edge. Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13, and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons.

In addition, claim 14 also defines additional patentable subject matter. Claim 14 recites a plurality of ridges provided along the inner and outer surfaces of the cylindrical wall. In contrast, Hackell does not teach or suggest any such ridges.

Goya

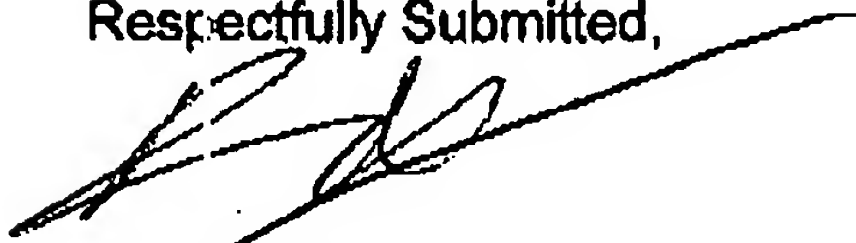
Claims 17-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,177,927 to Goya et al. ("Goya"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to recite that at least one of the plurality of loops further includes a plurality of ridges provided along the outer surface of the cylindrical wall. In contrast, none of the loops 30 in Goya have any external ridges.

Claims 18-20 and 22 depend from claim 17, and are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons.

Thus, all pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: October 8, 2004

By:


Raymond Sun

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